

Hearing Raised Bill 6604
3/5/2009

Algot Hagglund
President Rocky Hill Community Television

I would like to thank the Energy and Technology Committee and each person that had a part in writing this bill for taking the time to correct many of the problems concerning public access television today.

Rocky Hill Community Television is a public access tv station that is directly affected by this legislation. I am going to take a moment to drop a few names of people you may know, that have participated in shows that were produced and broadcast at RHCTV.

US Senator Chris Dodd, US Congressman John Larson, Governor John G. Rowland, Governor M. Jodi Rell, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz, State Treasurer Denise L Nappier, Comptroller Nancy Wyman, Speaker Moira Lyons, the Late Richard Tulisano, Speaker James A Amann, Representative Tony Guerrero, Senator Paul Doyle, Barbara B. Kennelly, and that is just some of the Politian's.

Rocky Hill Community Television is 25 years old this month. A few days ago I was not sure that we would survive another year. This bill that is before you today will require cable companies across the state to restore the funding for Public Access Programming.

This bill also requires that all cable (or AT&T) subscribers in the state will be able to receive the Connecticut Television Network. Currently CTN is not always available on the basic level of service.

AT&T's plan to bury "Public Access Television" in a black hole called channel 99 will not be allowed. This bill also requires AT&T to provide high quality, town specific, public access programming, and requires them to invest in and maintain the equipment to do that.

The bill requires "Local Cable Access Advisory Councils" mediate public access complaints.

The Department of Public Utility Control's oversight of the Public Access service to the citizens of Connecticut will be restored.

Without this bill Rocky Hill Community Television may not survive.

I urge all of you to vote for this much needed and well thought out bill.